

# Criteria for Standard School Type Definitions for the 2004-05 API Reporting Cycle

This document describes how school type (elementary, middle, or high) will be determined for the 2004-05 Academic Performance Index (API) reporting cycle. The 2004-05 API reporting cycle includes the 2004 API Base, which will be reported in March 2005, and the 2005 API Growth, which will be reported in fall 2005. This document is divided into three sections:

- Background about school type definitions for API
- How school type will be determined for API purposes
- Contact information

## ***Background***

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Section 52056 (a) of the *Education Code* requires that the API statewide ranking and similar schools ranking shall include three categories: elementary, middle, and high. As a result, school type designations impact the calculations of the API Base decile rankings. However, they do not impact the calculation of a school's API score (for the Base or the Growth) since that is determined according to test and content area weightings rather than school type. API rankings are used in determining API awards, if funding becomes available.

In 2001, specific definitions for school type were developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) according to a school's grade span and, for certain schools, according to the distribution of a school's enrollment. Since that time, the same criteria have been applied to the school type definitions for each API reporting cycle. These criteria will change slightly for the 2004-05 API reporting cycle.

In January 2005, staff of the CDE agreed to definitions that are aligned to meet the school type purposes for both the API and the county-district-school (CDS) code, commonly referred to as the "school ownership code." The school type criteria defined in this document reflect the new definitions for API purposes. Specific information about CDS code definitions should be addressed to [cdsadmin@cde.ca.gov](mailto:cdsadmin@cde.ca.gov).

## ***How School Type Will be Determined for API Purposes***

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School type of elementary, middle, and high for the API is based on "core" grade spans as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Core Grade Spans for Determining API School Type**

| School Type | Core Grade Span |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Elementary  | K-6             |
| Middle      | 7-8             |
| High        | 9-12            |

These core grade spans will be used as the basis for categorizing a school as elementary, middle, or high according to the following steps.

**Step 1: Assign school type based on grade span served**

For schools with a grade span, the API school type is determined according to the specific narrative criteria shown in Table 2. Tables 3 and 4 show the criteria according to each grade span served.

Grade span served is determined according to the lowest and highest grades with enrollment. This information is provided in the "List of California Public Schools and Districts," published by the CDE, available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ds/pubschls.asp>. "Ungraded elementary" is considered elementary, and "ungraded secondary" is considered high for API purposes.

**Table 2**  
**Specific Criteria for API School Type Classification**

| School Type              | Definition  |
|--------------------------|---|
| Elementary               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades in grades K-4, and no grade higher than 8 and not grade span 4-8 (which is classified as a middle school)</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades 5-6 only</li> </ul> |
| Middle                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade span 4-8</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades 7-8 and no grade below 5 or above 9 and not grade span 5-9 (which is classified according to enrollment)</li> </ul>                        |
| High                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade span 9-9</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades 10-12 and no grade below 7</li> </ul>  |
| Determined by Enrollment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades K-6 and one or more grades 10-12</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains one or more grades K-5 and grade 9</li> </ul>   |

**Table 3**  
**Elementary and Middle API School Type According to Grade Span Served**

| API School Type Classification  | K   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| <b>Elementary</b><br><br>Core grade span of K-6 but up to grade 8 in some cases.                | K-K |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | K-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 1-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 2-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 3-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 4-4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 4-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 4-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 4-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 5-5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 5-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 6-6 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| <b>Middle</b><br><br>Core grade span of 7-8 but down to grade 4 and up to grade 9 in some cases | 4-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 5-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 5-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 6-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 6-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 6-9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 7-7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 7-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 7-9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 8-8 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|   | 8-9 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |

**Table 4**  
**High API School Type According to Grade Span Served and**  
**School Type to be Determined from Enrollment**

| API School Type Classification   | K    | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9     | 10    | 11    | 12 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| <b>High</b><br><br>Core grade span of 9-12 but as low as grade 7 in some cases   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 7-10 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 7-11 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 7-12 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 8-10 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 8-11 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 8-12 |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 9-9  |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 9-10 |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 9-11 |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 9-12 |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 10-10 |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 10-11 |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 10-12 |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       | 11-11 |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       | 11-12 |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       | 12-12 |    |
| <b>Determined by Enrollment</b><br><br>Grade spans cross all three core grade spans<br><br>School type for these schools to be determined based on the largest enrollment in a core grade span | K-9  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  | K-10 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  | K-11 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  | K-12 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      | 1-9  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      | 1-10 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      | 1-11 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      | 1-12 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      | 2-9  |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      | 2-10 |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      | 2-11 |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      | 2-12 |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      | 3-9  |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      | 3-10 |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      | 3-11 |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      | 3-12 |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      | 4-9  |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      | 4-10 |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      | 4-11 |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      | 4-12 |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      | 5-9  |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      | 5-10 |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      | 5-11 |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      | 5-12 |      |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6-10 |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6-11 |      |      |       |       |       |    |
|  |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6-12 |      |      |       |       |       |    |

## **Step 2: Assign school type based on enrollment**

Schools with a grade span served that crosses the three core grade spans (e.g., K-12 or K-10) will be classified based on enrollment. These schools will be assigned school type according to the largest enrollment in a core grade span served. Enrollment in grades K-12 from the most current California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection will be used. (Enrollment and/or testing counts by grade from the most recent Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program reports may be used if CBEDS information is unavailable.) If the enrollment for two core grade spans served is equal, the school type will be the previous year's API school type.

For example, a school with a 4-12 grade span served has enrollment for the K-6 core grade span served of 136 students, for the 7-8 core grade span served of 192 students, and for the 9-12 core grade span served of 52 students. Since the 7-8 enrollment is the largest of the three core grade spans served, the school would be assigned a "middle" school type.

## **Step 3: Schools for which CDE does not yet know the grade span served, enrollment, or testing data**

A slight number of schools, particularly new schools, may not have current grade span served, enrollment, or testing data on file at the CDE. In these cases, school type may be assigned based on the name or characteristics of the school. Absent the pertinent indicators used to determine a school's type, a school type of elementary will be assigned for API purposes.

## **API Base determines the school type for API reporting cycle**

The API Base will determine the school type for a year based upon rules set in the previous year. Therefore, the school type will be assigned for both the API Base and Growth within an API reporting cycle.

## **API school type different from previous year's API school type**

A small number of schools will be assigned API school types that will be different from the previous API cycle school types. In these cases, school districts are provided a window of time to submit requests to change school type for the API reporting cycle.

## ***Contact Information***

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Questions about school type should be addressed to:

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